

[A Dangerous Mission]

Beliefs and Customs - Folk Stuff 17

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth ————— Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 17 West 69th Street 2800 Bronx Park East

DATE April 18, 1939

SUBJECT A DANGEROUS MISSION

1. Date and time of interview April 13-17, 1939
2. Place of interview Furriers Union
3. Name and address of informant
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

Sam Schwartz

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6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth _____ Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 West 69th Street 2800 Bronx Park East

DATE April 18, 1939

SUBJECT A DANGEROUS MISSION

You see, I was a member of the organizational committee. During the strike. So we used to get in all kinds of complaints. Some of them didn't mean anything. But we had to go investigate about the scabs. One complaint we got in, there's a couple of scabs having machines in the house and they are doing scab work in that house. So we went, two of us to investigate. We came up to the building and looked around. It was the right number, a little dingy building with narrow wooden stairs. We listened to all the doors. We walked up another flight of stairs, and we were scared. We actually heard machines going so fast. We thought, 'here we got the scab and the machines and we'll do something good.' We didn't want them to know we are from the union. So we made up to knock on the door and to ask then whether they have a room to let. We have to have some sort of a name and this is a Greek neighborhood, so we decided to think of some Italian name. A big, fat Italian woman opens the door and we hear [?] a bunch of machines going in the back. It sounded

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like a factory. We were shivering. It's very dangerous. We wouldn't get out alive from that. I ask the lady. "You got a room to let?"

"Yes." It happens she just had. "Who recommended you?"

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"A fellow by the name Jose."

So she turns around and [?] calls to someone in the back there. "Hey, Jose, some of your friends is here."

And he comes out. "Oh, comrades, I know you. You are from the union."

It was a regular shop. They were making flags for the first of May.